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Steve

LUCHA LIBRE WEEKLY

Tuesday, March 24, 1992

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Volume 1, Issue 5

Double Main Event: EL DANDY UPSETS ASAI IN JAPAN! SALVAJE UPSETS LEE, WINS SECOND HAIR IN A MONTH!

Well, which is the headline story this week? Well, the answer lies your interpretation of the significance of the result, not within the result itself, as seen below.

Since Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon (Yoshihiro Asai) jumped from the small Universal promotion to the larger SWS promotion in Japan, he has been one of the bigger success stories in that promotion. His lucha libre-style matches offer a different style and different look than the standard SWS fare. The stylistic uniqueness, combined with a remarkable work rate and interesting characterization has pushed Asai to the forefront in the SWS roster. As a leading star, and a not inconsequential draw, Asai has been well protected by the SWS bookers. In each monthly tour since his debut in November 1991, Asai has either won every match or, if he has lost, been in a tag-team match. This changed, however, this past week, in a large way. In Aomori, Japan, in a match held Saturday, March 14, 1992, el Dandy (Roberto Gutierrez Frias) pinned Dragon cleanly in the middle of the ring. The ramifications of this result, which in and of itself is fairly minor, will be felt through the EMLL and SWS promotions for the rest of 1992.

In Mexico, however, the EMLL has been having its best quarter I can ever remember in the ring (whether it is their best quarter at the gate is virtually impossible to judge because this is the first big quarterly series they have ever had to run which competes against their own television; it is *arguable* that selling 14,000-15,000 seats every Friday night at la Arena Mexico when the show is rebroadcast on TV within 36 hours is actually MORE successful than selling out all 17,100+ seats every week with no TV-more on this in the EMLL section). Anyway, back to the original point; the EMLL since January 1 has had a super four-week run at la Arena Coliseo and then a great seven-week run at la Arena Mexico (week eight began Friday, March 20). Typical of their success in this run is the success of their main events, most of which in 1992 have met or exceeded the best of all the year's matches in 1991 or 1990. The promotion balances its pushes between its newer, "more-TV-friendly" characters (like Octagon and Misterioso) with the older, more familiar faces (like los Brazos, los Infernales, or Kato Kung Lee I). Which brings us to this week's TV main event, taped Friday, March 13, 1992, at la Arena Mexico, between Kato Kung Lee I (Johnny Lezcano Smith) and la Bestia Salvaje (Juan Manuel Carillo Rodriguez). The result (as in who won) does not matter in and of itself too much. The "feud" between these two was just a brawl at the end of last week's match. It was hardly promoted with the same care as the six-week set-up between Salvaje and el Huracan Sevilla (Juan Sevilla Gonzales). But what the match shows about the inner workings behind the scenes, about how

a booker and a promoter balance factions and egos in an organization which employs over 165 wrestlers, most (if not all) of whom want a push and want it now, speaks volumes about how to promote wrestling in the 1990s.

First, however, back to the Asai/Dandy story. The match itself went 10:15, and was hard-core, straight lucha libre. Oddly enough, so far as I can tell, this is the first time these two have ever had a singles match, and so far as I know, have ever been opponents at all. It was reported by Japan's "Weekly Gong" magazine to have been a super match, well-worked, although not with a lot of "heat" from the fans (which was attributed in part to the Aomori fans' unfamiliarity with the style.) The fans were, however, said to be startled by the outcome, as el Dandy, using his patented move called la Dandina (generically called la magisterial, and David Krause's favorite move, it is where he grapevines one arm, rolls over, and drags the opponent over his body into a crucifix) rolled Asai up and scored a clean pinfall victory.

This finish serves several purposes. In the short term, it allows Asai a "feud," in which he will emerge victorious by pinning Dandy at the big final night ("the most important night") of the tour at the show at The Korakuen Hall in Tokyo. Second, it establishes to the fans that there are stars in Mexico that the SWS will bring in to challenge Asai who are capable of beating him, which should in turn create more interest and heat during the matches themselves. Third, it allows Dandy to be brought back in the future with a degree of justification, since "he holds a win over Asai." But the most important ramification of this result will be felt back home in Mexico.

In Mexico, recently, Asai announced that, as Dragon, he was moving up in weight class from a middleweight to a light-heavyweight, an announcement that el Dandy had made in late 1991. In the cases of both wrestlers, this is looked at by the Mexican fan as a natural progression. Asai is a former UWA World Welterweight champion and a former UWA World Middleweight Champion. Dandy is a former NWA World and Mexican National champion at both the welterweight and middleweight levels. It would be considered proper if not downright necessary that both move up in weight class. This would mean that both would challenge Jerry Estrada (current CMLL World Lightheavyweight champion), Lizmark (current NWA Lightheavyweight champ), and la Mascara Sagrada (current Mexican National Lightheavyweight champion). In fact, as reported by "Weekly Gong", either Dandy or Asai might challenge Lizmark any day now for Lizmark's title, and then with one the champion, the other will be ready for a feud as number one contender. Now, I have tried to keep this analysis as fact-based as possible, but this last bit must be marked as speculation. Though other magazines and sources have hinted at a Dandy turn back to a rudo (as a possible member of a Mexican 4 Horsemen, perhaps?), this scenario is still in the planning stages at the EMLL offices on the fourth floor of la Arena Mexico. It makes sense to me, and helps explain the Japan result, and is based on the coming together in my mind of all the scattered hints I have picked up lately. We shall see.

Back in Mexico, the Lee/Salvaje match illustrates the inner workings of the EMLL booker and promoter about as well as any scenario of which I can think. Both Lee and Salvaje have worked for the EMLL for several years now, and for that reason fall into a kind of an "old-guard" category of wrestlers around whom the promotion has already run feuds, angles, and stipulation matches. Generally speaking, the EMLL wrestlers form three factions within the fraternity of EMLL wrestlers. The "old-guard" wrestlers are generally associated in the front office with head promoter Francisco "Paco" Alonso Lutterroth. A second group, generally associated with TV producer and idea man Antonio Pena, are the new characters who have sprung onto the scene in the last four years, such as Octagon, el Misterioso, el Volador, and the super-mini-estrellas. A third group, often associated with finance- and detail-man Juan Herrera, include the rest of the wrestlers, a hodge-podge of common foreigners (like Fabuloso Blondy), Hispanic Americans (like los Hermanos Guerreros), and some of the most veteran wrestlers (such as Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo and Ringo Mendoza). I could spend the rest of this issue and the next one trying to explain fully what makes each wrestler break into each sub-set, but two of the major reasons are feelings about the union and feelings about a possible promotional split. To make a long story short, after the strike problems of 1991, it seems possible the

wrestlers allied with Antonio Pena at the very least voiced their displeasure with the UWA-heavy union leadership and quite possibly, behind Pena ally el Justiciero, tried to "take over" the union leadership (they failed). It was left to the faction allied with Alonso, led by los Brazos, to calm matters down on all sides. Herrera's guys seemed on both sides of that issue. Then, in the matter of a split in the EMLL promotion, there did seem a time recently when each faction thought they could book and promote a promotion within themselves without having all the hassles of a young mother's trying to feed three children at once. For the moment, that threat has passed. Nonetheless, the factions definitely remain, and given that fact, how can a booker and promoter keep harmony?

Well, there may be no one correct answer, but it appears that by working together, Pena, Alonso, and Herrera have come up with a way to alternate the feuds and pushes so that everyone gets a piece of the pie, while the fan is kept interested, satisfied, but never full. For example, in Pena's camp are Octagon and Fuerza Guerrera, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon and The Blue Panther. On January 31, 1992, on the major weekly EMLL Friday night card, Pena promoted a card at la Arena Mexico with Dragon vs. Panther and Octagon vs. Guerrera in rare singles matches. On February 7 he had no stipulation matches but built up for the 14th. On the 14th two of the wrestlers in Alonso's camp, la Bestia Salvaje and el Huracan Sevilla had a hair match. The 21st again was a build-up week for the 28th, when Masakre (in Herrera's group) and el Pirata Morgan (Alonso's group but also an intra-group peacemaker) had a hair match. The March 6th was another build-up card, so the 13th had a hair match between Salvaje and Kato Kung Lee (also in Alonso's group). If this is confusing, the summary should clear it up. Every other week Pena, the TV producer, runs a big stipulation match main event and the week before and after are set-up weeks. The beauty of the system is that on the undercard, every faction gets a chance to shine as well. The trend continues a bit on the 20th, when Sangre Chicana and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo (both aligned more with Herrera and somewhat with Alonso) meet in a singles' match. If it looks like Pena's boys haven't gotten much push since January 31st, they are being saved for el Ultimo Dragon's title match with Lizmark and Octagon's mask match (if it's not postponed again soon) versus Fuerza Guerrera. To add to the variety, Pena is booking the CMLL World Women's Heavyweight Tournament starting March 27th. This keeps the TV fresh, and different factions happy, and spreads the exposure, the push, and the extra pay for wrestling on TV, around to everyone. Granted, it is not a perfect system, but it seems to be working very smoothly. In-ring action and attitude are way up from last year and the TV product on the whole is quite improved in 1992.

Still, as you may have noticed, the feuds are often kept "within" factions. This serves the dual purpose of assuring co-operation amongst the boys and preventing warfare from one faction's either showing up another or getting overly favorable treatment in finishes. Obviously, inter-factional matches can and do take place, particularly on the undercards and in "las arenas chicas," the smaller arenas. When the feud matches or push time come, however, careful consideration is obviously given to the match-up and the result not only as to how the fan will accept them but also in how well they will be received in the office.

Plus, when you take into consideration the added exposure and income that comes to the wrestlers who appear on television, an additional wrench is always thrown into the gears. Each of the 165 wrestlers would surely love to be put over constantly on the largest television network in Mexico. It takes a careful hand to balance these 165 egos while rewarding charisma and work rate, and yet not lose sight of what the fans want to see (or how to make the fans want to see what you have to offer.) Now that the EMLL broadcasts its Friday night 8:30 pm show at noon the next Sunday, things must be added to the mix to keep the product fresh and make the fans want to see the matches live, not just on TV 39 1/2 hours later--this calls for variety in the matches (which is why we often see one match highlighting technical arm drags, one of comedy spots as in with the Grundy brothers, and one of all-out feud brawling in a back-to-back-to-back position on the television show, as has happened the last few weeks); this variety keeps the fan interest peaked in every match, and allows different wrestlers with different styles to each get over in their own way.

I hope that did not get too long and arcane, but it might help to explain why things work the way they do. And, it brings us to the discussion of this week's television show from Galavision! The TV opener matched tecnicos CMLL World Welterweight Champion America (ex-el Pantera II), el Filoso (the old wrestler in a new character designed as the "hero" in the displays at the new lucha libre museum in Coyoacan), and The Love Machine (Art Barr) versus rudos CMLL World Middleweight Champion The Blue Panther, la Fiera (Arturo Casco), and, wearing a brand new full-body costume, Kung Fu (Raymond de la Cuesta Veloz). The winners here were the tecnicos, in two straight falls. The first fall went 5:40 before el Filoso pinned la Fiera with a power slam. The second went 4:01 before Panther was disqualified for fouling Filoso. After the match, Love Machine ripped Panther's mask totally off, and Panther and Machine challenged each other to a mask match. These post-match challenges were commonplace on tonight's show. The match itself was fine, though nothing special. Machine and Panther looked the best here; I continue to remain very disappointed in America. **.

I should point out that they actually opened the television show with a little more than three minutes of highlights from the match at la Arena Coliseo from Sunday, March 8, 1992, where America defeated Fuerza Guerrera to win the CMLL World Welterweight Championship. Before an amazingly sparse crowd, America pretty much dominated, winning on a strange reverse-backbreaker cover pinfall in the third fall.

Next they showed this week's popularity poll. Octagon, The Blue Panther, Lady Apache, los Intocables del Ring, and la Mascarita Sagrada led their categories. The "revelacion" of the week was Atomo, youngest of the Brazos brothers; this was his formal "introduction" on EMLL television.

The second match of the night, and the third of the card, was in my opinion the best match of the evening. The rudos, CMLL World Trios Champions, los Nuevos Infeales (M. S. 1, el Pirata Morgan, and captain el Satanico, all wearing cool new purple pants) won two straight falls from the team of NWA World Middleweight Champion Atlantis, Mexican National Lightheavyweight Champion la Mascara Sagrada, and NWA World Lightheavyweight champion Lizmark in 13:28. The first fall went 4:25 before all three Infeales made la Mascara Sagrada submit to a full-body-stretcher submission hold. The second fall went 9:03 before el Satanico pinned Lizmark clean as a sheet with a power bomb. Immediately after his victory, el Satanico challenged Lizmark for a match for Lizmark's belt. The Lizmark/Satanico rivalry is one of the oldest in Mexico, as they have traded titles since the 1970's. Satanico bled to put the challenge over more strongly. The second fall in particular was good, with a lot of heat for the face comeback. Bell-to-bell action. ***.

The semifinal saw Casanova el Vampiro Canadiense, Konnan el Barbaro (Carlos Santiago Espada Moises), and captain el Perro Aguayo (Pedro Aguayo Damian) defeat CMLL World Heavyweight Champion Cien Caras (Carmelo Reyes Gonzales), Pierroth junior, and captain Sangre CHicana (Andres Richardson) in three falls in 21:48. The rudos dominated all three falls except for about half of the middle fall and the very end of the third fall. In fact, the wrestlers really lost the match totally during that second fall, so bad that Pierroth was eliminated via pinfall TWICE—I have never seen that happen before. Anyway, the finish of the match saw Vampiro pin Caras with a power slam in the third fall; this set up their title match two days later in Monterrey which Caras won. After the match, Aguayo and CHicana went at it again, and challenged each other to a hair match. So each of the first three matches on television ended with a challenge for a stipulation match. I have no knowledge if either of the first two were brought back on the 20th, but CHicana and Aguayo was, in a straight singles match. Good action but not so frantic as the prior two weeks. ** 3/4.

The main event saw la Bestia Salvaje upset Kato Kung Lee I in three falls in 9:59 to win the hair match. Lee won the first fall quick (0:53) via submission and Salvaje pinned Lee at 2:36 of the second with an over-the-top-rope diving senton. The third fall, which went 6:30, was hardly up to the standards of the great Salvaje/Sevilla match of February. There were NO near falls by either man and only one dive out of the ring apiece. Sevilla won clean, and got a small pop, with an off-of-the-top-rope senton splash onto Lee. Very little heat and very little work, most of it by Salvaje. ** 1/4.

UWA NEWS

Not much in the way of results in this issue, although one can pretty well guess how each match ended—screw job. I went back and took a look at the listings of last week's results from el Toreo, both from the card of 3/15/92 and the two television shows I reviewed, and of the nine top matches on these three cards, eight ended in a cheap finish. I believe without a doubt that this is the main reason the UWA has fallen on such relatively hard times for them in the last eighteen months, to the point where the 25,000 seat el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos bull ring, their main weekly Sunday afternoon arena, is often not even one-third full. Let's go into the results that I do have:

* On Sunday, February 23, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl in the Mexico City suburb of the same name, los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (el Signo, The Black Power II, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) defeated la Ola Lila (Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna, Pimpinela Escarlata, and May Flowers) in three falls. I believe this was the main event of the card. La Ola Lila (The Lilac Wave) does a hard-core gay act, and are normally heels, but were cheered so often during the latter half of 1991 that they are now frequently matched up as faces against other heel teams; this was the case in this match. I personally, having seen la Ola Lila as faces, think they are much better off as heels, but with many of the heel attractions in the UWA leaning towards jumping to the EMLL, I suspect la Ola Lila may be full-time faces soon. The finish of the third fall saw el Signo pin Pimpinela Escarlata with a plancha (cross body-block) in the third fall. The semifinal saw Rambo and el Tigre Canadiense (Mike Lozansky) defeat el Villano IV (Tomas Diaz) and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada in three falls when Hamada submitted cleanly to a "gori especial," or Argentinian backbreaker, by Rambo in the third fall.

* Saturday, February 29, 1992, at la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, was highlighted by a caballera contra caballera match between el Engendro (Raul Larios Castellanos) and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada. Now normally the stipulation in Mexico is that if there is a draw in this type of match, whether by double pin, double count out of the ring, or double disqualification, both men must have their hair shaved off. Only once, in a match last September between Apolo Dantes and Javier "el Monarca" Cruz, have I seen a referee at the end of a drawn third fall order a fourth fall to force a winner. Well, they did just that here in this match. After both men were pinned simultaneously in the third fall, referee el Bucles ordered a fourth fall, which was won by Hamada. It was said to have been a good match, and the unusual (for Mexico) finish was well-received by the fans. The semifinal found Enrique Vera, Silver King, and el Texano defeating Jose "el Negro" Casas, Fishman, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) when The Killer was disqualified for a low blow in the third fall. The second match of the card had el Tigre Canadiense and Doctor Wagner junior over el Celestial and Transformer (ex-Kendo). The opener had Lasser and los Dragones Chinos I and II over los Mohicanos I and II and Momotaro (Monkey Magic Wakita in Japan).

* Sunday, March 15, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl featured a mask match between two local rookies, and Mister Condor, who received a complementary (as in appreciative, not as in free) write-up in "Ovaciones," defeated el CHolo in three falls. This is the only detail I have so far on this match or even on this card.

* This is not a result, but is the line-up for this Saturday's (March 28th) UWA television show; this show was held Friday, March 20, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl. The main event smells like a real turkey, featuring Canek, Enrique Vera, and el Villano III versus Bufalo Allen, el Scorpio I, and The Baby Face I. The semifinal, however, smells as sweet as a rose; it finds UWA and WWA World Parejas Champions los Cowboys (Silver King and el Texano) teaming with el Gran Hamada to face Jose "el Negro" Casas, Doctor Wagner junior, and Fishman. The third match of the card, and the television opener, features el Indomito (ex-boxer Vincente Carbajal) and Kahos I versus the now-regular pareja of el Fantasma and el Solar I. Off television, the opening two matches are mano a mano bouts; one has Mister Condor versus el Celestial, the other has Bat Blue versus el Sevillano.

LUCHADORES EN JAPON

Many Mexican wrestlers have been active in Japan during the month of March. I have already covered the initial bout of el Dandy and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon, which occurred March 14. They were scheduled to meet again twice in a singles match and one in a six-man tag match between March 16th and 22nd, and I shall have those results next week. Also for SWS, their rookie wrestlers Masao Orihara and Takayuki Nakahara debuted for the EMLL March 7, 1992, in Mexico City, with the ninja ring names Iga and Koga, respectively (*see page 7 for more details*).

Luchador Ultraman Dos Mil, who works for Atsushi Onita's FMW promotion as "el Amigo Ultra," began his ninth tour of Japan (which, by the way, ranks him behind only Mil Mascaras, Dos Caras, Canek, and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo on the all-time list of Mexican wrestlers who have toured Japan), on a card held Friday, March 20, 1992. FMW's March tour runs daily from the 20th to the 30th, and I shall have Ultraman's results from the first three shows next week. I am not sure if Ultraman's normal foe el Pandita is on this tour or not. FMW wrestler Yukihide Ueno, the smallest of the FMW wrestlers, has been working every Friday night in Tijuana since February 14 as "el Kamikaze Ninja," for WWA Promotor Benjamin Mora junior.

And we come to the second 1992 tour of Japan for the Universal promotion. This tour, "Gran Estrella '92," featured a tag-team trio tournament. The six trios were: * Los Mosqueteros del Diablo, los Brazos (el Brazo de Oro, el Brazo de Plata, and el Brazo); * Los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (el Signo, The Black Power II, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro); * Los Americanos (The Lightning Kid, Jerry Lynn, and Rickey Rocket {Rice}); * Dos Caras, Kendo, and el Gran Hamada; * El Hijo del Santo, Bulldog Punish K. T. (Akiyoshi), and Cooley Crush S. Z. (Takayama); * and finally, the team of Silver King, his brother Doctor Wagner junior, and el Texano. For five straight nights (March 7th to 11th) they had a round-robin series. The final results saw:

- ** Caras/Hamada/Kendo, 3-2, losing to los Brazos and Santo/Punish/Crush
- ** los Brazos, 3-2, losing to los Americanos and King/Wagner/Texano
- ** King/Texano/Wagner, 3-2, losing to los Nuevos Misioneros and Hamada/Caras/Kendo
- ** Santo/Punish/Crush, 3-2, losing to Texano/King/Wagner and los Brazos
- ** los Misioneros, 2-3, beating los Americanos and King/Texano/Wagner
- ** los Americanos, 1-4, beating los Brazos

With a four-way tie for first, league semifinals were held on the 12th at Korakuen Hall, with Santo/Punish/Crush defeating King/Texano/Wagner (when Santo made Wagner submit in the third fall to the "de a caballo," or camel clutch) and Hamada/Caras/Kendo beat los Brazos (when Hamada pinned el Brazo de Plata with the backdrop—that must have looked like an ant picking up an elephant). The finals were held the next night, the 13th, and Hamada/Caras/Kendo emerged victorious, beating Santo/Punish/Crush in two straight falls as Hamada won the first fall by pinning Punish with a huracan rana and the second fall too by pinning Crush with a backdrop.

The semifinal on the card of the 13th featured a UWA World Trios Titles defense by los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte, and they defeated their challengers from the rival EMLL, los Brazos, two falls to one, when el Signo pinned el Brazo de Oro with an off the top rope cross body block in the third.

Also for Universal, Masa Michinoku, who wrestled in Mexico for the UWA as el Ninja Sasuke, wrestled this tour as "el Super Nino." Michinoku won seven straight opening-card matches from Sakigake Gantestu; he then unmasked on the final night of the tour. As Michinoku, he defeated The Black Power II, who actually wrestled this tour under the ringname "Power Slam Johnny," in 6:38. Universal then announced its next tour would be a one night spot show called "The Spot Show" and would be held at The Korakuen Hall in Tokyo, Japan, on Sunday, April 19, 1992.

EMLL NEWS

Here are the latest results I have from the EMLL circuit around Mexico City:

* Tuesday, March 4, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo, featured a main event with Atlantis, el Dandy, and la Mascara Sagrada losing in three falls to Jerry "la Puma" Estrada, Javier "el Monarca" Cruz, and Emilio "el Rey del Beautiful" Charles junior. The semifinal found Mogur, el Volador, and el Misterioso defeating los Guerreros del Maya, a new trio in Mexico City consisting of two masked wrestlers, el Guerrero Maya and el Guerrero del Futuro, plus a wrestler who is either Adrian Street or looks JUST like him called Damian el Guerrero. The tercera found luchadoras Lady Apache and Xochitl Hamada defeating Japanese ladies Mima Chan (Mima Shimoda) and Mari Chan (Mariko Yoshida) in three falls. This is by the way the first match that I can recall for some months for Hamada in the EMLL; this bodes well for the impending jump of her boyfriend, Jose "el Negro" Casas. The segunda found los Ku Klux Klanes III beating el Gran Apache I, Joe Mercado junior, and Talisman junior in three falls. The inicial featured Climax and el Mestizo over Pegaso and la Magia Azul.

* Friday, March 6, 1992, at la Arena Mexico, in the match that aired off television, "el Chacho" Herodes, el Angel Blanco junior, and el Comando Ruso won two out of three falls from Ringo Mendoza, Cachorro Mendoza, and el Angel Azteca. By the way, the match that was off TV this past show had Enjambre, Marabunta, and el Guerrero de la Muerte versus Cicon Ramirez, la Aguila Solitaria, and el Solar II.

* Saturday, March 7, 1992, at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City was the debut card of Japanese wrestlers Masao Orihara (Iga) and Takayuki Nakahara (Koga). They teamed with el Angel Azteca to defeat the team of Ponzona, el Septiembre Negro junior, and el Hombre Bala in three falls. This is the only detail I have on this match and this card, except that Orihara did do his moonsault out of the ring that he is famous for in Japan.

* Sunday, March 8, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo was highlighted by America's upset win over Fuerza Guerrera for the CMLL World Welterweight Championship. I had covered this last week in some detail. Also on the card, in the semifinal, el Chamaco Ayala won a caballera contra caballera contest versus Panico; this is why Panico was bald when he seconded Fuerza Guerrera in that title match on the card, as many of you noticed on television. I will say this much. That title match and that hair match must not have been much of a draw, because by my estimate there were fewer than 1,000 fans in an arena that seats over 5,500... On the undercard, by the way, Iga and Koga teamed with Ringo Mendoza to defeat Sangre Chicana, el Egipcio, and (Leon) Kirilenko in three falls.

Now for news that is not result-related, EMLL wrestlers Erick "el Canelo" Casas, Atomo (ex-Robin Hood), Cicon Ramirez, and Shu, el Guerrero (see below) have been invited to the next Universal show in Japan, to be held April 19, 1992. It is speculated by both "Weekly Gong" and "Weekly Pro" in Japan that los Gemelos Metalicos (Oro and Plata) and the Mexican National Pareajs Champions, el Misterioso and el Volador, will be invited as well. This represents a fundamental shift in policy for the Universal booker/talent coordinator, el Gran Hamada. Previously, Hamada has used almost exclusively UWA talent. To bring over this many new EMLL wrestlers (each of the wrestlers named in this paragraph would be making his first tour of Japan except Casas, Atomo, and Shu) must involve some serious back-room negotiating and ego stroking by Hamada. Also, since the EMLL has an agreement with Japan with the SWS promotion; one wonders how SWS leaders will react to seeing their contracted talent debut with another promotion. And speaking of Japan/Mexico ties, Puerto Rican booker Victor Quinones, affiliated in Japan with the W*ING promotion, announced he would be visiting Mexico City and Atlanta to get signatures of the UWA and WCW brass, respectively, on a talent-sharing agreement (my comment here is don't hold your breath waiting for any actual talent to be traded even if by some miracle everyone signs this agreement). In reference to the big first annual CMLL convention held last week in Monterrey, Paco Alonso announced that this spring and summer's main series would be the CMLL/NWA World Title Unification Matches; he also announced the CMLL World Ladies' Tournament.

LATE NEWS: Here are the results from the UWA card held Sunday, March 22, 1992, at the el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos bull ring in Naucalpan, Mexico, Mexico. The main event saw the team of el Gigante Warrior, Bufalo Allen, and Bull Pain (making his Mexico debut) defeated Canek, el Fantasma, and Enrique Vera in three falls. Vera was DQed (what a surprise) in the third fall for re-entering a fall after he had been eliminated. Fantasma was subbing for Dos Caras, who no-showed due to a union meeting that ran overtime. The semifinal saw Jose "el Negro" Casas, Fishman, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) defeat el Hijo del Santo, la Sombra Negra, and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada in two straight falls. In this match, Santo accidentally headbutted Negra in the second fall; Negra got mad and fouled Santo, who was thus pinned. This re-ignites the feud between Santo and Negra; last December Santo had unmasked Negra in Monterrey. The tercera saw el Fantasma (working twice), el Solar I, and el Coloso over Rambo, Doctor Wagner junior, and The Baby Face I in three falls in what was said to have been a good match. In the segunda, Kahos I, el Engendro, and el Indomito defeated Transformer (ex-Kendo), el Celestial (ex-Blackman), and el Sicodelico (ex-wrestler) in three falls. The opener had los Guerreros del Averno (Shu, el Guerrero, el Lobo Rubio, and el Hijo del Diablo) over Lasser, Kendo Star, and el Magnetico. At the Sunday afternoon EMLL card at la Arena Mexico held March 22, los Intocables del Ring (Masakre, Pierroth junior, and Jaque Mate) won the CMLL World Trios Titles from los Nuevos Infernales (el Satanico, el Pirata Morgan, and M. S. 1) in three falls when Masakre pinned Morgan in the third fall. Highlight of this match should air on the Galavision TV show of Sunday, April 5, 1992. Masakre's pin gives him double revenge, first for being kicked off the Infernales (10/18/91) and second for losing his hair to Morgan

(2/28/92). The semifinal saw Atlantis and Octagon (whose new movie "La Revancha" just had a huge opening) team with Black Magic to defeat The Blue Panther, la Fiera, and Emilio Charles junior when, in the third fall, The Love Machine interfered and cause Panther to be pinned. The tercera had Javier "el Monarca" Cruz, Kung Fu, and Popitekus over Apolo Dantes, el Cachorro Mendoza, and el Volador in two straight falls. The segunda had Javier "el Gusano" Llanes, el Guerrero de la Muerte, and el Halcon Negro junior over Ciclon Ramirez, Bronce, and la Aguila Solitaria in three falls. The opener had la Diabolica and Maria del Angel over Atenas and Janet. The main event for the UWA card Monday, March 23, at la Arena Puebla was Canek, Dos Caras, and Enrique Vera versus Rambo, Bull

Pain, and el Gigante Warrior. Underneath, la Ola Lila met los Villanos I, IV, and V. For those of you who asked, I am still selling copies of my 110-page, updated, 1991 lucha libre annual, for only \$10.00. More info on the trip next week—out of room!

FROM: "LUCHA LIBRE WEEKLY"

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1992

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

C/O STEPHEN H. SIMS

1427 WEST DICKENS AVENUE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614-3003

(312) 477-3996



TO:

R. Scott Houston
P.O. Box 249
West Friendship, MD 21794
0249

FIRST CLASS MAIL